

# Explore and Restore the Menekaunee Harbor

## ► Why Dredge Menekaunee Harbor?

By 2010, Menekaunee Harbor had filled in with sand and sediment from upstream. Urban and industrial activities had contaminated the sediment with heavy metals and petroleum products. In 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and City of Marinette dredged the harbor to clean it up.

More than 59,000 cubic yards of sediment has been removed for safe disposal. The harbor is deeper and better able to accommodate recreational and commercial fishing boats now that dredging is complete. Removing the contaminated sediment will significantly benefit fish and other wildlife.

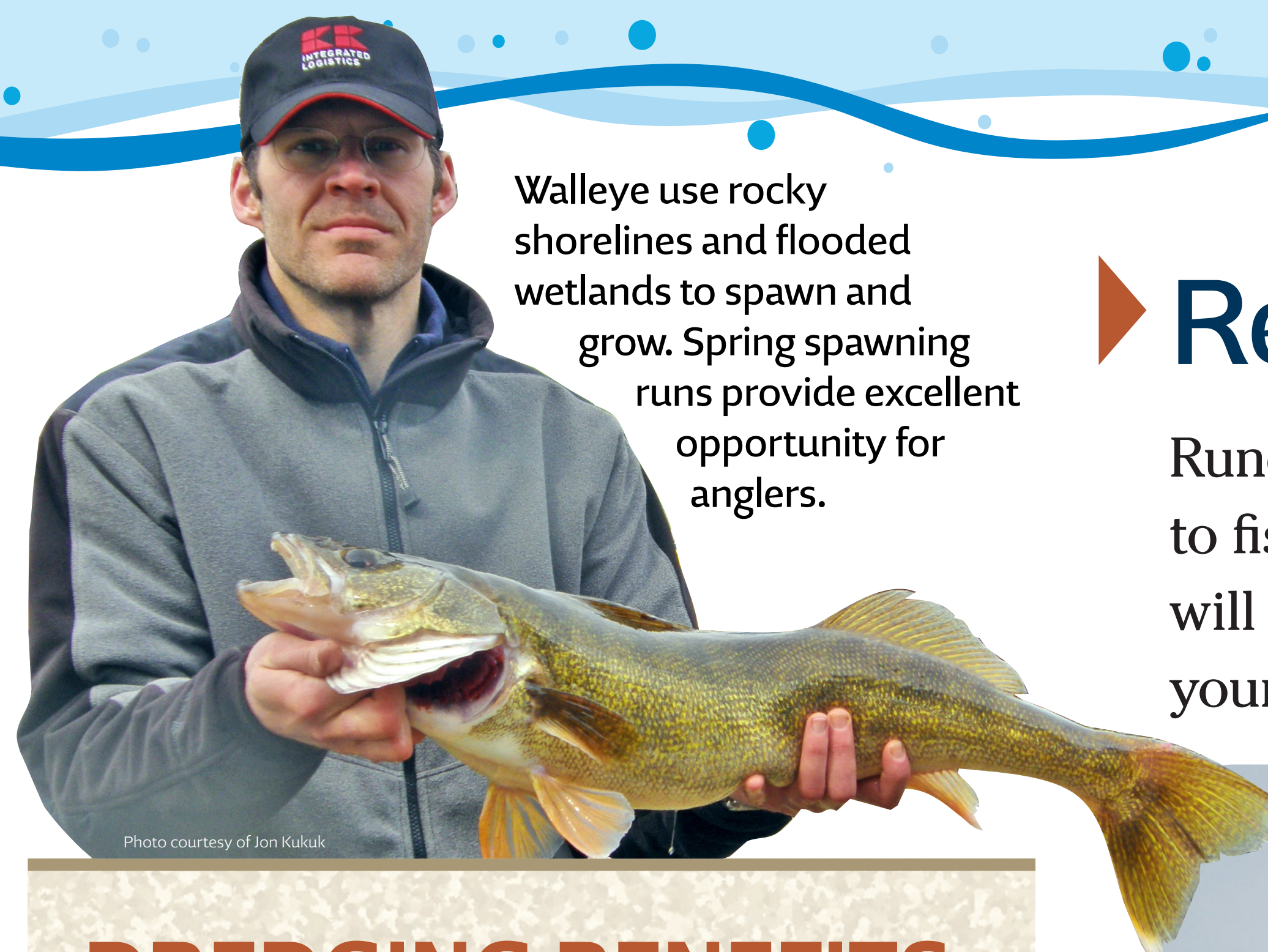


Menekaunee Harbor dredging in progress.

Scientists collected sediment samples from the harbor to determine how much sediment should be removed.



Photo courtesy of U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



Walleye use rocky shorelines and flooded wetlands to spawn and grow. Spring spawning runs provide excellent opportunity for anglers.

## DREDGING BENEFITS EVERYONE

- Improved water depths for boating and recreation
- Removal of pollutants harmful to people, fish, and wildlife
- Opportunities for new economic development and tourism
- Fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities
- Improved quality of life for the community

## ► Restoring Habitat

Rundown retaining walls have been repaired or replaced with riprap more friendly to fish and wildlife. Wetland and shallow water habitat in other parts of the harbor will be preserved and restored. Musky and other fish spawn in the harbor and the young fish need wetland and shallow water habitat to grow.

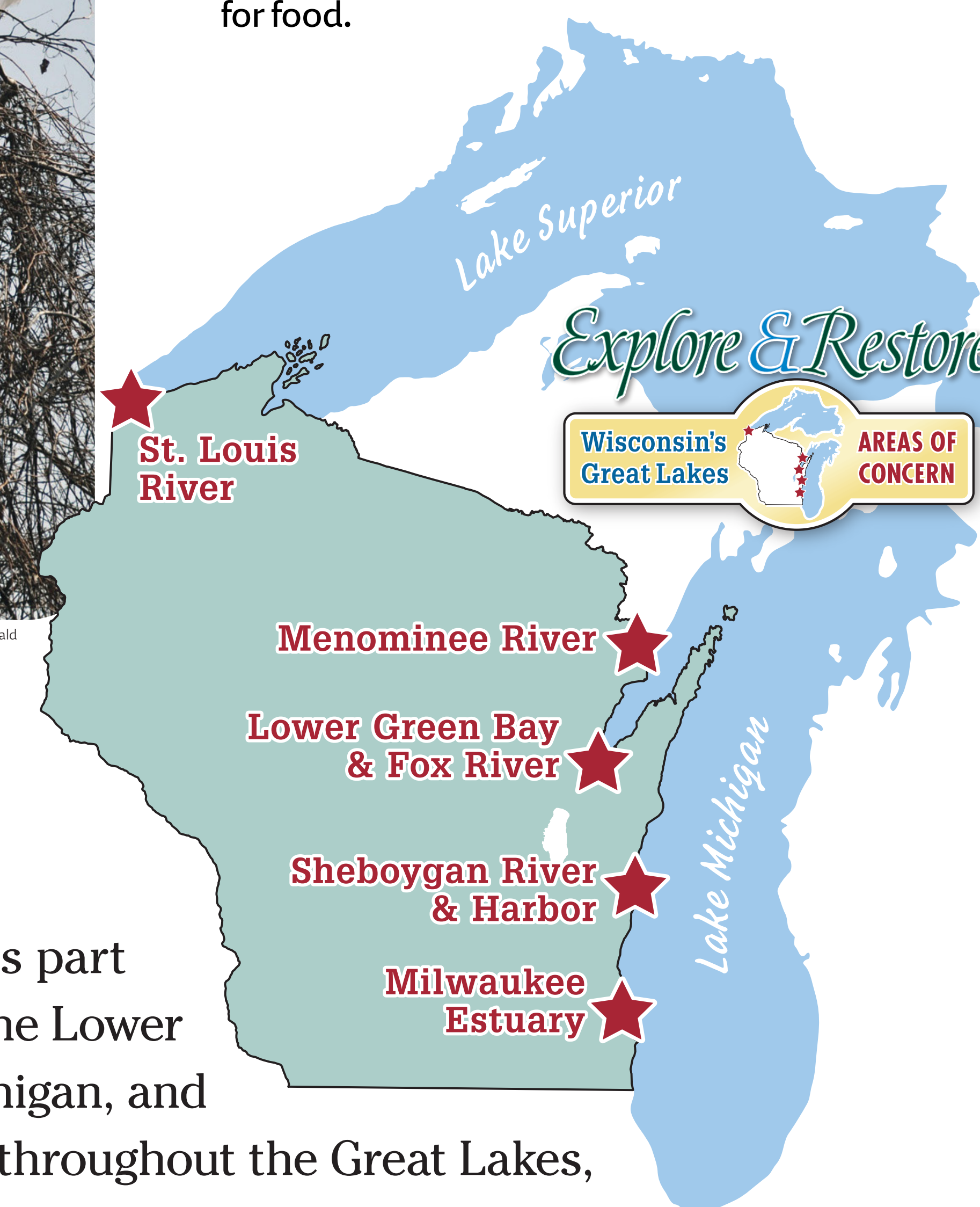


Photo courtesy of Rich Gebhard, Eagle Herald

The east end of the harbor contains valuable wetland and shallow water habitat. You're likely to see birds like the great egret hunting there for food.

## ► Great Lakes Connections

The work happening at Menekaunee Harbor is part of a larger program to clean up and restore the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern, Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes. Areas of Concern are found throughout the Great Lakes, and are all considered to be greatly in need of environmental cleanup and restoration.



VISIT:

[fyi.uwex.edu/aocs](http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs) or

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keyword search Areas of Concern

[michigan.gov/deq](http://michigan.gov/deq) keyword search Areas of Concern

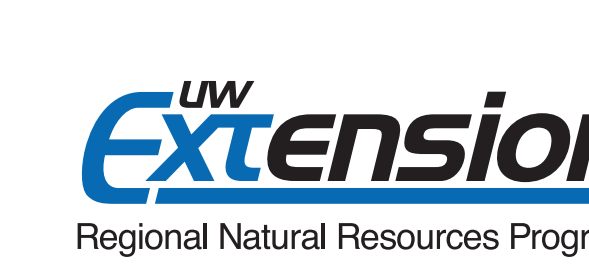
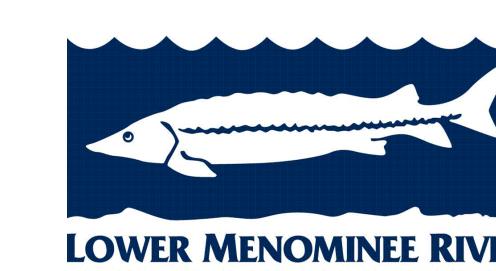


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The American Aboriginal Portfolio, by Mrs. Mary H. Eastman, illustrated by S. Eastman, Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co. 1853.

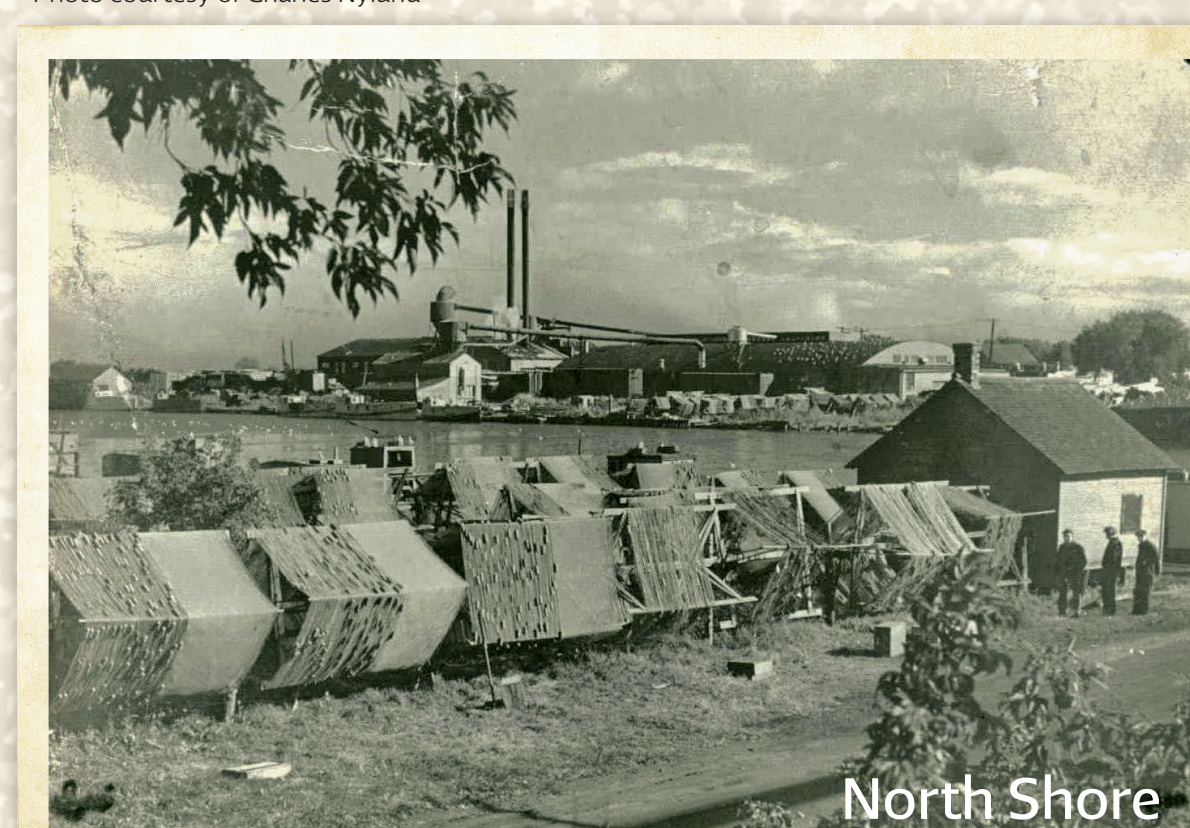


Photo courtesy of David Null, UW Archives and Records Management Services



Hundreds of logs clog the Menominee River in Marinette, Wisconsin.

Photo courtesy of Charles Nyland



Views of the Menekaunee Harbor circa 1930's.

Photo courtesy of Charles Nyland



South Shore

Photo courtesy of Steve Zander



Photo courtesy of Britt Martin



Photo courtesy of Cheryl Bougie



The name "Menekaunee" comes from the Menominee word "Minikani" and means "Where the Lodges Are." Menekaunee Harbor was once the site of a Menominee Indian wild rice harvesting camp.

Sawmills and lumber-related industries blossomed during the late 1800's. Menekaunee Harbor was a thriving fish market and a safe harbor for dozens of commercial fishing boats.

As a quiet backwater, Menekaunee Harbor naturally collected sand and sediments from upstream. The harbor also collected heavy metals and petroleum products from nearby urban and industrial activity, hurting aquatic life.

The City of Marinette and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have partnered to clean up the harbor, and improve conditions for boaters, anglers, and aquatic life.

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